

JAN 27 2005

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TO: Division of MRDD Staff  
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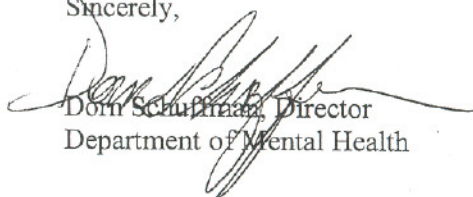
Today Governor Blunt released his budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006. Those recommendations include the privatization of the state-operated Individual Supported Living arrangements (ISL's), and community-based state-operated MR/DD group homes currently operated by St. Louis Developmental Disabilities Treatment Center, Nevada Habilitation Center, and Southeast Missouri Residential Services by October, 2005.


The Department supports the recommended privatization of state-operated independent supported living sites and community-based group homes operated under the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver. The Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities will schedule meetings next week at SEMORS, Nevada and St. Louis DDTC to meet with staff, parents, families, guardians and consumers to discuss the issues around these transitions. These transitions are in keeping with national trends. Community providers have successfully operated these types of programs for many years.

Our goal in implementing the Governor's recommendation is to assure individuals are able to remain in their current homes, and that they do not experience any disruption in service, receive the same level of quality supports, and are able to choose their community provider.

We value our employees and will assure that each employee has access to all opportunities offered under the Merit system. We will also work with community providers to assure that employees can continue to work with the people they presently serve, according to the wishes of the consumer and the families.

Sincerely,

  
Dorn Schuffman, Director  
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Anthony A. Casey, Jr., Ph.D., Acting Director  
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